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Seminar

A Private Sector Security Overseas Seminar for U.S. businesses, academic institutions, and NGOs will be held Sept. 21–22. Get information and resources about overseas security threats and personal security training similar to that mandated for all employees assigned to U.S. missions. [Read More](#) | [Registration Details](#)

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The Official
State Department
Blog



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will host the G-20 Summit September 24-25, 2009. President Obama will chair this meeting of leaders from countries around the world who will review the progress made since the Washington and London Summits and discuss further actions to assure a sound and sustainable recovery from the global financial and economic crisis. [-Summit Website](#)

International



Afghanistan Elections

"I want to be very clear. Just as we have in the United States, between an election and the inauguration, the United States has one president and that, right now, that is Hamid Karzai. Ambassador Eikenberry and myself and everyone else represented in this room deals with the government on the basis of the fact that he is the current elected president of Afghanistan. We have no problems with this. We have the greatest respect for him and for his role as president."

Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for
Afghanistan and Pakistan
Paris, France, September 2, 2009

PARIS, Sept. 2 -- Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, discussed in a press conference, irregularities surrounding the recent elections in Afghanistan. He reiterated that the United States' does not have a preferred candidate nor does the United States have a preference as to whether there is a first-round victory or a runoff. "Our advocacy is for a fair process overseen by the Independent Election Commission, taking into account the decisions of the Election Complaints Commission, a process which then elects a government that is legitimate and reflects the will of the people who voted," he said. [Read More](#)

Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula Remains Core Objective

"We are agreed that complete, verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula remains our core objective in our ongoing efforts with the DPRK. We are also agreed that this is a problem that has the kind of manifestations that require that it be dealt with on a multilateral basis. We would be open to bilateral engagement as well, but only within the context of the Six-Party process and as an effort to help rejuvenate and restart the Six-Party process."



Stephen Bosworth, Special Representative for North Korea
Policy
Beijing, China, September 4, 2009

BEIJING, Sept. 4 -- Stephen Bosworth, Special Representative for North Korea Policy is traveling through Northeast Asia, in an effort to an effort to help rejuvenate and restart the Six-Party process. On behalf of the Obama Administration, Ambassador Bosworth has been in the region reiterating the United States' commitment to dialogue, and the United States' willingness to engage in dialogue with the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. [Read More](#) | [Ambassador Phillip Goldberg Aug. 26 Interview](#)

Preventing the Spread and Use of Nuclear Weapons

"The Council, ...has a very important role to play in preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons, and it's the world's principal body for dealing with global security cooperation. The session will focus on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament broadly, and not on any particular countries. Key areas to be highlighted will include arms control and nuclear disarmament, strengthening the NPT regime, and denying and disrupting trafficking in and the securing of nuclear materials. We are consulting with colleagues on a potential product for that session, and will keep you posted as that evolves."

Ambassador Susan E. Rice
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
New York, New York, September 2, 2009

NEW YORK, Sept. 2 --Susan Rice, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, outlined the United Nations Security Council's September "Program of Work", in the UN Press Briefing Room. In her discussion, she discussed five important upcoming meetings and sessions followed by press inquiries:

- **SEPTEMBER 24TH** -- The first meeting and session: The President of the United States will chair a summit-level meeting of the Council on **nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament**. This will be only the fifth occasion in United Nations history for a meeting at the summit level, and the first time in history that an American President will chair the United Nations Security Council.
- **SEPTEMBER 3RD** -- Meeting of the troop and police-contributing countries for the United Nations Mission in **Liberia** (UNMIL). The meeting will be focused on extending and updating the mandate of UNMIL and ensuring that the mission continues to receive support from the Security Council.
- **SEPTEMBER 9TH** -- Open debate on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in **Haiti** based on the Secretary-General's September 1st report. Special Envoy for Haiti, Bill Clinton, will join that session.
- **SEPTEMBER 29TH** -- Briefing on United Nations Assistance Mission in **Afghanistan** (UNAMA); an important and timely session, in which the UNAMA leadership is expected to for the first time, provide in its report to the Council, benchmarks for progress, to measure progress in Afghanistan, and an assessment of the elections.
- **SEPTEMBER 30TH** -- UN will vote a resolution (a follow-on to Resolution 1820) on **Women, Peace and Security**. The United States is leading the drafting and coordination of that effort in the Council, and consultations have begun. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is expected to chair the adoption of that follow-on resolution and to make a statement.



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Termination of Assistance Affecting the De Facto Regime in Honduras

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 -- The Department of State announced the termination of a broad range of assistance to the government of Honduras as a result of the coup d'état that took place on June 28, 2009. The Secretary of State had already suspended assistance shortly after the coup.

The Secretary of State has made the decision, consistent with U.S. legislation, recognizing the need for strong measures in light of the continued resistance to the adoption of the San Jose Accord by the de facto regime and continuing failure to restore democratic, constitutional rule to Honduras.



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Inside the Beltway

The Passing of Senator Kennedy

"For five decades, Senator Kennedy was at the heart of our greatest debates, serving on the front lines of democracy. With optimism and courage, he helped us meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of our times. He was a champion for women and families, for health care, education, civil rights and the environment."



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Washington, DC, August 26, 2009

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 -- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined the nation in mourning the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, whom she described as "one of our nation's finest statesmen and a dear friend." [Read More](#)



President Obama's Remarks at Iftar Dinner

"For well over a billion Muslims, Ramadan is a time of intense devotion and reflection. It's a time of service and support for those in need. And it is also a time for family and friends to come together in a celebration of their faith, their communities, and the common humanity that all of us share. It is in that spirit that I welcome each and every one of you to the White House."

President Barack Obama
Washington, DC, September 2, 2009

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 -- President Barack Obama welcomed several American Muslims along with members of the diplomatic corps, cabinet members and members of Congress to the White House for an iftar dinner in celebration of Ramadan, a longtime tradition of the White House. President Obama shared a few of the attendees' stories to highlight how Muslims are interwoven into the fabric of this country. He highlighted the contributions of Muslims to the United States and reiterated his fundamental commitment and responsibility as President to foster engagement grounded in mutual interest and mutual respect. [Read More](#) | [President Obama's Message on Ramadan](#)

Global Issues Affecting the Nation

U.S. Actions To Counter Piracy Off the Horn of Africa



WASHINGTON, DC, Sept. 1 -- The State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs released a fact sheet outlining the United States' actions to counter piracy off the horn of Africa. The United States Government, in concert with the American

maritime industry and other concerned nations and international organizations, continues to work to prevent pirates operating in the waters off of the Horn of Africa from interfering with maritime commerce, endangering mariners, hindering the provision of humanitarian aid to East Africa, and further destabilizing this troubled region. [Fact Sheet](#)

Treaty To Help Fight Illegal Fishing

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 -- The US Department of State announced that delegates at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization successfully concluded two years of



negotiations on a new treaty designed to make illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing more costly and more risky for those who continue to undermine fisheries rules. The United States strongly supported this initiative and participated actively in the negotiations. [Read More](#)

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